Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Ian McKnight
District Manager

505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan
Parks and Waterfront Committee
Monday, April 13, 2026 - 6:30PM
Conducted remotely on Zoom.

Please note: The resolution contained in the committee minutes is a recommendation submitted by the committee co-chairs to the Community Board. At the monthly full board meeting, the resolution is discussed and voted upon by all members of Community Board 8 Manhattan.

Resolution for Approval:
Item 1: Approval of the Central Park Conservancy's master plan for rules related to signage at park entrances and restrooms

MINUTES

Present: Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, Sahar Husain, Rita Popper*, Judy Schneider, and Elaine Wrightman*.

**Public Member*

Approximate Number of Public Attendees: 22

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Item 1: Central Park Conservancy Signage Project, presented by Senior Vice President for Capital Projects Sandy Huber, Vice President for Design Nick Koster, and Vice President for Program Management Diane Jackier

Nick Koster presented the Central Conservancy's master plan for consolidated rules relating to signage in Central Park. He presented the reasons for developing the uniform standard for signage and presented photos of existing signage as well as the new signage. The new signage will be placed at Park Entrances with different sign strategies based on the existing conditions of those entrances.

In addition, Nick Koster presented the new signage master plan for restrooms, showing examples of existing signs and the new sign plan.

The goal of the strategy is to install permanent signage at park entrances and restrooms. The signage will display the official park rules in multiple languages, preserve naturalistic views, and follow the Conservancy's brand identity.

A question was asked about font size, and the Central Park Conservancy representative noted that all aspects of the signage, including font size, were reviewed for compliance with existing accessibility rules.

The following resolution was then put forward by the Committee:

WHEREAS, the Central Park Conservancy presented plans for a new master plan sign strategy at entrances to Central Park; and

WHEREAS, the Central Park Conservancy presented plans for a new master plan sign strategy at restrooms in Central Park;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Parks and Waterfront Committee approves the Central Park Conservancy's master plan for rules related to signage at park entrances and at park restrooms.

Board Member Vote: 6-0-0 Farber, Hershenson, Husain, Popper*, Schneider, Wrightman*

Item 2: Swedish Cottage Marionette Theater 150th Anniversary Upgrade by Giulietta Fiore, Executive Director of the Historic House Trust

Giuletta provided background on the Historic House Trust and the work they do, explaining that they have responsibility for 23 sites in all 5 boroughs. The mission of the Historic House Trust is to advocate for, promote, and provide expertise to preserve 23 publicly owned historic sites.

She explained the history of the Swedish Cottage. Noting that 2027 marks 150 years since the Swedish Cottage came to Central Park. It was built by the Kingdom of Sweden as a schoolhouse in exhibit at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, reconstructed in Central Park in 1877, and became a Marionette Theater in 1947. It was designated a NYC Landmark in 1974 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The City Parks Foundation operates the site.

Fiore explained the planned exterior upgrades for the 150th Anniversary and noted that this is a city-funded in-kind exterior restoration. The anticipated construction completion is April 2027.

Interior Renovation of the Swedish Cottage is planned by the City Parks Foundation. Additional funding for this project is needed.

Item 3: Report by Robert McLean, NYC Parks, Regional Manager

Regional Manager Robert McLean was unable to attend the meeting.

Item 4: Report by Shena Kaufman, NYC Parks, District Manager 8 & 15

The Request for Bids for the construction of Ruppert Park has been released, and the bids will be due on April 22nd.

Phase 3 work on the East River Esplanade is set to begin next Monday (April 20th) from East 76th to East 81st Streets. The contractors will work as much as possible from a barge in the East River.

Hospital for Special Surgery (HSS) is working with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to open up the ramp at East 71st Street, which would allow the esplanade to open between East 70th and East 71st Streets.

Overnight, there was a fire on the East Midtown Greenway which connects to Andrew Haswell Green Park and the Parks Department has been trying to get a response from DOT on the issues/status for installing security cameras in this area. Sheena hopes to have an update at the next Parks Committee meeting.

Community Issues/Questions Raised:
Concern was raised about bicycles on the bridge across East 63rd Street. The bridge is narrow and raises potential safety issues between pedestrians and cyclists.

Concerns and questions were raised about the bathrooms at 24 Sycamores Park. Sheena noted that the Parks Department is working with other City agencies to determine the location of the breakage that caused the permanent bathroom to be closed. It was noted that a repair will take several years.

Concern was also raised about the cleanliness of the port-a-potties in the park. Sheena said she will work on upgrading the cleanliness of the port-a-potties.

A question was asked about the status of the MPPA (multi-purpose play area) renovation at Carl Schurz Park, whether a pickleball surface will be installed, and whether the orientation of the courts can be turned to accommodate all for 4 courts. Sheena does not think it is an option, but will investigate and raise the issue with others at Parks.

Item 5: Old Business
No items of Old Business were discussed.

Item 6: New Business
No items of New Business were discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

By Felice Farber, Bradley Hershenson, and Judy Schneider,
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee